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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 002157

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ELA, DRL/NESCA AND G/IWI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/17/2029

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [SOCT](#) [KWMN](#) [KIRF](#) [ELAB](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: POPULATION MINISTER FOCUSING ON FAMILY PLANNING

REF: A. CAIRO 2083 B. CAIRO 575 Classified By: Ambassador Margaret Scobey for reason 1.4 (b).

1. KEY POINTS -- (SBU) On November 8, Minister of State for Family and Population Moushira Khattab told the Ambassador and USAID Mission Director.
2. (C) Comment: Minister Khattab has received issue-oriented assistance from USAID on most of the major issues she is working on: family planning.
3. (C) Minister Khattab stressed that family planning is her "key priority," consuming about 90 percent of her time. Khattab feared that the birth rate would continue to rise.
4. (SBU) Khattab said she will need to present empirical evidence to the public and the GOE on the costs incurred by large families. Through such evidence, she hopes to convince the public that family planning is in their best interest.
5. (SBU) Khattab was confident about the effectiveness of citing religious rulings from both Muslim and Coptic authorities in support of family planning.
6. (C) Khattab praised the "strong boost" she received from the October 30-November 1 ruling National Democratic Party Conference, which emphasized the importance of family planning.
7. (SBU) Khattab voiced concern that the GOE is not "making headway" on combating child labor. She noted that her ministry views child labor as a major obstacle to economic development.
8. (C) Khattab welcomed the October arrests of marriage registrars for registering under-age marriages (ref A) as an important step in implementing the law.